

- 3 JUL 1981
VICTORIA

Australian Entomological Magazine

Aust. ent. Mag.

Volume 8, Part 1

June, 1981

THE FOOD PLANTS OF *JALMENUS EVAGORAS* (DONOVAN) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)

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Abstract

A new larval food plant, *Acacia ingramii* Tindale, is recorded for *Jalmenus evagoras evagoras* (Donovan) from the Armidale district, New South Wales. The literature giving food plant data for *J. evagoras* (Donovan) is summarized. The 15 known larval food plants, all of which are *Acacia* species, are listed. *Acacia botrycephala* (Vent.) Desf., recorded as a larval food plant of *Jalmenus evagoras evagoras* and *Pseudalmenus chlorinda chloris* Waterhouse and Lyell, should now be known as *Acacia terminalis* (Salisb.) Macbride.

On Christmas Day, 1978, a visit was made to Dangars Falls, about 20 km ESE of Armidale, New South Wales (30°41'S, 151°44'E). Here five pupae and two second instar larvae of *Jalmenus evagoras evagoras* (Donovan) were collected from a small bush of *Acacia ingramii* Tindale, a food plant previously unrecorded for this butterfly. This species is usually a spreading, bushy shrub growing to 2-5 m in height, but sometimes growing as an erect tree to 7.5 m in height. It is related to *A. neriifolia* A. Cunn. ex Benth., but differs in its growth habit and has narrower phyllodes with midribs bearing short, stiff hairs (Tindale, 1978). *A. ingramii* is confined to the Dangars and Wollomombi Falls areas, and the Gara and Oaky River districts of the upper Macleay River catchment in north-eastern New South Wales (Tindale, 1978), while *A. neriifolia* occurs from south-east Queensland to Victoria (Tindale, 1978). Harslett (1965) recorded *A. neriifolia* as a food plant from near Stanthorpe, Queensland, so it is unlikely that she confused *A. neriifolia* with *A. ingramii*.

All of the fifteen known food plants of *Jalmenus evagoras* (Donovan) belong to the genus *Acacia*. Thirteen of these are for *J. evagoras evagoras*: *Acacia binervata* DC. (Chisholm, 1925); *A. cunninghamii* Hook. (Manski,

1960); *A. dealbata* Link (Barnard, 1889; Crosby, 1951); *A. decurrens* (Wendl.) Willd. (Froggatt, 1892, 1902; Thorn, 1924; Borch, 1928; Harslett, 1965); *A. falcata* Willd. (Common and Waterhouse, 1972); *A. ingramii* (Hawkeswood, this paper); *A. irrorata* Sieb. ex Spreng. (Common and Waterhouse, 1972); *A. mearnsii* De Wild (Thorn, 1924; Coleman, 1943); *A. melanoxyton* R. Br. (Chisholm, 1925); *A. neriifolia* A. Cunn. ex Benth. (Harslett, 1965); *A. rubida* A. Cunn. (Common and Waterhouse, 1972); *A. spectabilis* A. Cunn. (Harslett, 1965); *A. terminalis* (Salisb.) Macbride [known prior to Tindale, 1975 as *A. botrycephala* (Vent.) Desf.] (Common and Waterhouse, 1972). Two food plants are recorded for *J. evagoras eubulus* Miskin: *A. penninervis* Sieb. ex DC. (Waterhouse, 1932); *A. harpophylla* F. Muell. (Waterhouse, 1932).

The records by Common and Waterhouse (1972) of *A. falcata*, *A. irrorata*, *A. rubida* and *A. terminalis* (as *A. botrycephala*) are presumably from previously unpublished information. They overlooked Chisholm's (1925) record of *A. binervata*.

A. terminalis has also been recorded as a food plant for *Pseudalmenus chlorinda chloris* Waterhouse and Lyell by Binns (1976) where it again appears as *A. botrycephala*.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr M. S. Moulds for his assistance in the preparation of this paper. I also wish to thank Mr J. D. O'Dea, Department of Physiology, University of New England, Armidale, for his comments and suggestions.

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